



# Quality Assurance Bulletin

September 24, 2009 No. 09-05

Program Support Bureau

County of Los Angeles - Department of Mental Health  
Marvin J. Southard, DSW, Director

## UPDATING SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE DIAGNOSES AND DUAL DIAGNOSIS CODES

This Bulletin is in response to questions regarding how to update the substance use/abuse diagnosis and/or the dual diagnosis code in a client's Clinical Record after an episode has already been opened. **The MH 501-Diagnosis Information Form, see attached, should be used for both of these purposes.** Changes should NOT be made on the Initial Assessment.

### To Change/Update an Axis I Substance Use/Abuse Diagnosis

If at any point after admission/the opening of the episode, it is determined that the client has a different or new substance use/abuse diagnosis, a Diagnosis Information form should be completed and given to data entry to update the diagnosis and/or dual diagnosis code in the IS. Simply list the full Five Axis diagnosis as it CURRENTLY stands. For any diagnosis that is added, the Diagnosis Information form requires a justification for the new diagnosis. If the justification can be found elsewhere in the Clinical Record, the document containing the justification may be referenced on the Diagnosis Information form.

### To Change/Update a Dual Diagnosis Code

Similarly to the above method for changing/updating a diagnosis, the Diagnosis Information Form must be completed and given to data entry staff. **However, a justification is not needed if only the dual diagnosis code is being changed/updated.** Please see the Dual Diagnosis Decision Tree, see attached, regarding how to choose the appropriate Dual Diagnosis Code.

*MH 501- Diagnosis Information form can be found at:*

[http://dmh.lacounty.gov/ToolsForClinicians/clinical\\_forms.html](http://dmh.lacounty.gov/ToolsForClinicians/clinical_forms.html)

*Notes: Instructions for completing the form can be accessed by clicking on the question mark on the top of the form.*

*Pages 73 and 74 of the IS Codes Manual which lists all Dual Diagnosis Codes are attached and can also be found at: [http://dmh.lacounty.gov/hipaa/downloads/CODES\\_MANUAL\\_IS1\\_Version\\_3.4.pdf](http://dmh.lacounty.gov/hipaa/downloads/CODES_MANUAL_IS1_Version_3.4.pdf)*

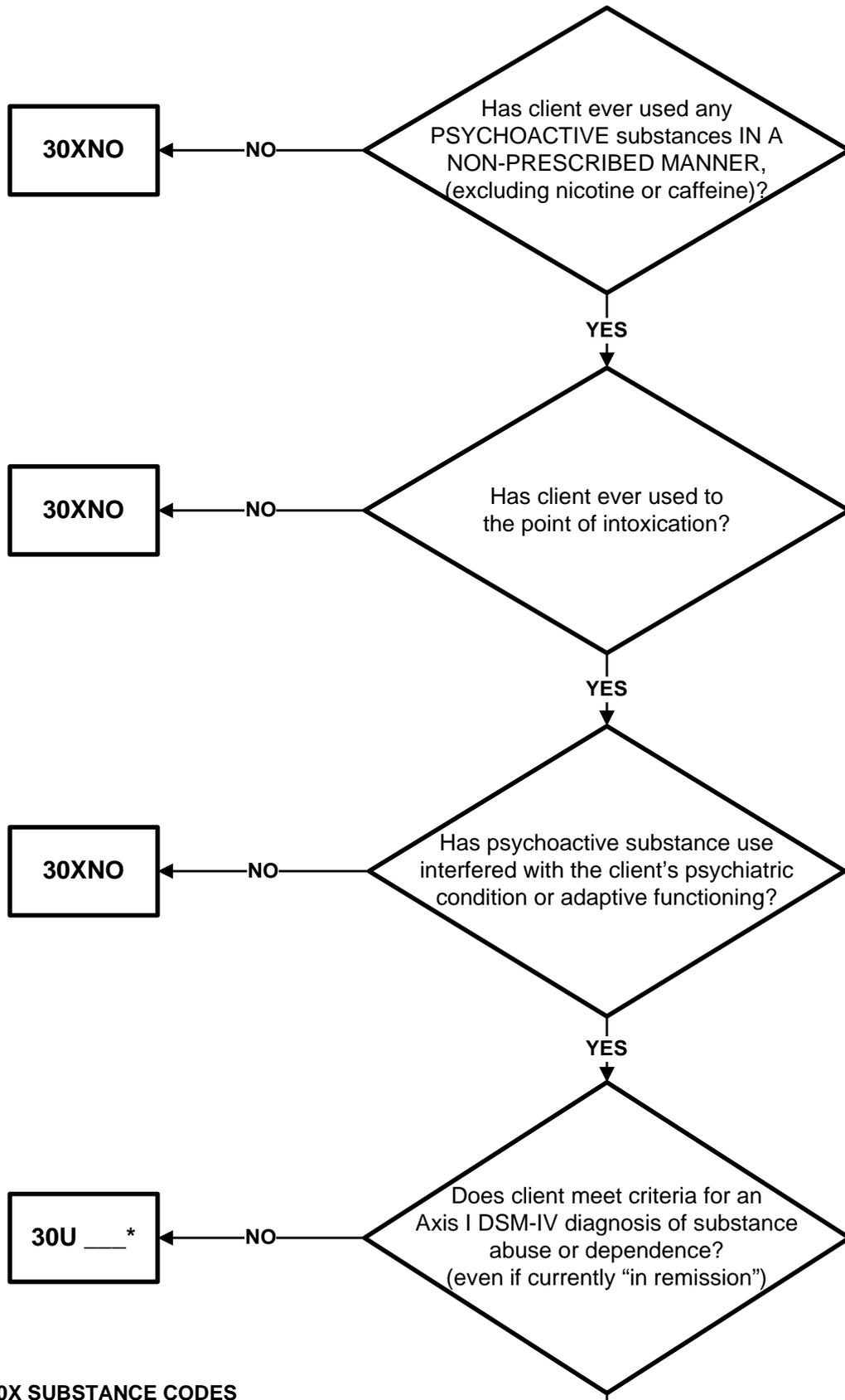
If you have any questions, please contact John Sheehe (COD Coordinator) with Co-Occurring Disorders questions or Jennifer Eberle (Quality Assurance Staff) with documentation questions.

c: Executive Management Team  
District Chiefs  
Program Heads  
Department QA staff  
John Sheehe

Judy Miller, Compliance Program Office  
Nancy Butram, Revenue Management  
Donna Warren-Kruer, Managed Care  
T.J. Hill, ACHSA  
Paul Arns



# DUAL DIAGNOSIS CODE DECISION TREE (9-25-09)



**\* 30U and 30X SUBSTANCE CODES**

|    |             |    |                  |
|----|-------------|----|------------------|
| AL | Alcohol     | HA | Hallucinogen     |
| AM | Amphetamine | IN | Inhalant         |
| MJ | Cannabis    | SO | Sedative/Opioid  |
| CO | Cocaine     | PS | Poly-Substance** |

\*\* Poly-Substance = use of two or more substances

When using a 30X Code (other than 30XNO), coinciding secondary Axis I substance abuse/dependence diagnosis(es) should be given.

***DUAL DIAGNOSES CODES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE***

**NOTE:**

***Report at admission, annually thereafter, and at discharge.***

| <b><u>“DUAL”<br/>Codes</u></b> |       | <b><u>Dual Diagnosis<br/>Description</u></b> | <b><u>DSM IV Codes Reference</u></b>  |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|---|
| 30xAL                          | 30uAL | Alcohol                                      | 303.00 Alcohol Intoxification<br>303.90 Alcohol Dependence (Includes remission)<br>305.0 Alcohol Abuse  |
| 30xAM                          | 30uAM | Amphetamine                                  | 292.89 Amphetamine or other similarly<br>acting Sympathomimetic intoxication or<br>305.70 Abuse or<br>304.40 Dependence (includes remission)                      |
| 30xMJ                          | 30uMJ | Cannabis                                     | 292.89 Cannabis (Marijuana or Hashish)<br>Intoxication Or<br>305.20 Abuse or<br>304.30 Independence (includes remission)  |
| 30xCO                          | 30uCO | Cocaine                                      | 292.89 Cocaine Intoxication<br>305.60 Cocaine Abuse<br>304.20 Cocaine Dependence (includes remission)   |
| 30xHA                          | 30uHA | Hallucinogen                                 | 292.89 Hallucinogen, Phencyclidine (PCP) or<br>Similarly acting Arcyclohexylamine<br>Intoxication or<br>305.30 Abuse or<br>304.50 Dependence (includes remission) |
| 30xIN                          | 30uIN | Inhalants                                    | 292.89 Inhalant Intoxication or<br>305.90 Abuse or<br>304.60 Dependence (includes remission)  |
| 30xSO                          | 30uSO | Sedatives                                    | 292.89 Sedative, Hypnotic or Anxiolytic Intoxication<br>Opioids Or  |

*DUAL DIAGNOSES CODES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE (con't)*

| <b><u>“DUAL”<br/>Codes</u></b> | <b><u>Dual Diagnosis<br/>Description</u></b>   | <b><u>DSM IV Codes Reference</u></b>   |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
|                                |  | 305.40 Abuse or<br>304.10 Dependence (includes remission)<br>292.89 Opiod Intoxication or<br>305.50 Abuse or<br>304.00 Dependence (includes remission) |
| 30xPS      30uPS               | Poly-substance<br>Use  | 304.80 Poly-substance Dependence (includes remission)  |
| 30xNO                          | No use of or history of psychoactive substances that interferes with the mental disorder and adaptive functioning. |  |
| 99999                          | Unknown  |  |

**NOTE:**

*X Codes: The Dual Diagnosis codes under (x) are to be used for clients who meet the DSM IV criteria for psychoactive substance intoxication, abuse, and dependence (includes remission).*

*U Codes: The Dual Diagnosis codes under (u) are to be used to report clients with psychoactive substance use which interferes with their mental disorder and adaptive functioning.*